



THIRTEENTH REGIMENT ARMORY.
Where the Big Eisteddfod Was Held.

It is meet that Scranton should be the scene of a national eisteddfod. There are more Welsh people in Scranton than there are in Aberystwyth where the national eisteddfod of Wales is sometimes held, and in the Lackawanna and Wyoming valleys there are almost as many as in Bangor, Carnarvonshire, where the eisteddfod is to be held this year. Then again Scranton and her environs can appreciate an eisteddfod. We are somewhat literary, to say the least, and it is not saying more than the truth to assert that no city in the country has a greater proportion of her population trained in music.

But if there ever was any doubt as to its being meet that Scranton should attempt a national eisteddfod, that doubt was removed yesterday. The Scranton national eisteddfod of 1902 was the greatest ever held in America and will possibly never be surpassed in this country until Scranton essays to repeat it.

In every feature essential to the success of an eisteddfod, it excelled any previous event of its kind and in many features it also excelled the national eisteddfod of Wales.

It had contestants from Great Britain, and all parts of the United States and Canada, its most extremely separated competitors being 7,000 miles apart. The number of participants was vast. There were no less than 2,500 vocalists and 200 literary contestants. At the concert and the three sessions of the eisteddfod there was an aggregate attendance of 20,000. One session alone, that of last night, had an audience of nearly 8,000. It was the biggest crowd that ever assembled under one roof in Scranton, and bigger than many that the biggest cities can boast of ever having recorded.

In the prominence of its officers, adjudicators, conductors and presidents, it was especially noteworthy. They were: Walter Damrosch and J. W. Parsons, president of the foremost musicians of the metropolis; Jenkin Powell Jones, a leading musician of the middle west; President Judge H. M. Edwards, of Scranton, the most scholarly and best known Welshman in America; Prof. George Howell, of Scranton, a litterateur, teacher and lecturer, who is regarded as one of the brainiest of Welsh-Americans; and G. H. Humphrey, of Utica, N. Y., who besides being a noted linguist and litterateur, is a lawyer standing in the front rank of his profession in a state where the most brilliant of America's attorneys obtain.

The weather was perfect and contributed not a little to swelling the attendance. The best of order and good feeling and the greatest enthusiasm prevailed throughout the sessions.

An innovation was introduced by having competitions for German singing societies and the presence of the celebrated Arions, of Brooklyn, as guests of the eisteddfod.

Prominent Welshmen from all parts of the United States including not less than a score of bards, were in attendance. Excursions were run from Utica, Bangor, New York, and Wilkes-Barre, and large-sized delegations came from Ohio, Newcastle, Pittsburgh and other places, having large Welsh populations. The choral singing was superb. It is a regrettable fact, however, that in a number of the solo and duet competitions the number of entries worthy of a national eisteddfod was not large. The literary competitions were unusually numerous and for the most part held because of unsatisfactory compositions. The winners of the \$1,000 prizes were:

Mixed Chorus.

First prize, \$1,000—Philharmonic Choral society, of Utica, N. Y. Iorwerth T. Daniels, leader.

Second prize, \$200—The Wilkes-Barre Choral society, of Wilkes-Barre; John Lloyd Evans, leader.

Male Chorus.

First prize, \$200—Dr. Mason Glee club, of Wilkes-Barre; John Lloyd Evans, leader.

Second prize, \$100—The Arions, of Utica, N. Y.; Iorwerth T. Daniels, leader.

German Male Chorus.

Class B—Trophy valued at \$200—Scranton Sängerkunde.

Class C—Trophy valued at \$200—Scranton Liederkreis.

Ladies' Chorus.

First prize, \$200—Scranton Ladies' Choral society; Mrs. D. R. Thomas, leader.

Second prize, \$100—Cecilians, of Utica; Iorwerth T. Daniels, leader.

Mixed Quartette.

First prize, \$20—The Watkins family

(mother, daughter and two sons), of Harrisburg.

Soprano and Contralto Duet.

First prize, \$25—Mrs. Frank Brundage and Miss Via Jones.

Tenor and Bass Duet.

First prize, \$25—Divided between Evan H. Roberts and E. J. Williams, of Slatington, and Goff Humphreys and William Evans, of New York.

Prize Essay.

First prize, \$50—Divided between R. S. Jones, North Scranton, and William Corless, West Scranton.

Contralto Solo.

First prize, \$10—Miss Via Jones, of West Scranton.

Englyn.

First prize, \$5—Iorwerth Roberts, of West Scranton.

Juvenile Chorus.

First prize, \$25—Sherman Avenue Mission Juvenile choir, of West Scranton; Richard Phillips, leader.

Welsh Novel.

First prize, \$25—Dr. D. E. Richards, Slatington.

Bass Solo.

First prize, \$10—Evan H. Evans, Carnarvon, Wales.

Descriptive Poem—"Niagara."

First prize, \$25—Vivian.

English Poem—"McKinley."

First prize, \$20—George S. Phelps, Leadville, Col.

Soprano Solo.

First prize, \$10—Mrs. Frank Brundage, Scranton.

Tenor Solo.

First prize, \$10—Evan H. Roberts, Slatington.

MORNING SESSION.

The seats in the sections at the two extreme ends of the semi-circle were reserved for the competing vocalists. At the morning session the juvenile choirs were assembled on the left and the German choruses on the right.

On the platform were President Judge Edwards and T. P. Williams, of Newcastle, the conductors, ex-Lieutenant-Governor L. A. Watres, the president of the morning sessions, Walter Damrosch, Jenkin Powell Jones, and J. W. Parsons, the adjudicators in music and David Pritchard, secretary of the eisteddfod committee.

For an hour or more preceding the opening of the morning session, there was continued handshaking. Welshmen from Utica, Newcastle, Milwaukee, New York, Wilkes-Barre, Bangor and a dozen other places renewed old acquaintances, one with the other, and the enthusiasm of the former eisteddfods and the size and promised success of this.

At 10:45 Judge Edwards, chairman of the eisteddfod committee, opened the morning session by calling for the singing of "Hen Wlad fy Nhadau," as an appropriate first number. Gwilym Miles led in the singing, accompanied on the piano by Dan Protheroe, Mus. Bac., of Milwaukee, formerly leader of the Cymrodorion, who was given a hearty ovation as he appeared on the stage.

The president of the morning session, Colonel Watres, when introduced by Judge Edwards, said:

You have conferred a distinctive honor upon our city by bringing here this national eisteddfod. Your presence in our midst is both an uplift and an education. Your high purpose and splendid endeavor merit and have received keenest commendation; heartiest congratulations are your due, because of your well-earned success.

The law of music is one of the laws of God. The harmonious, the good and the true are divinely given, and should be nurtured and made strong. All of us possess these attributes to an extent far greater than we ken all of us have unexplored possibilities we do not of. Although all of us may have done the best we could, none of us have brought out the best within us. All effort tending toward the development of these latent forces for good and the bringing out of these God-given powers is most commendable, and entitles those who undertake it to the sincere gratitude of the community and the state in which they live.

FIRST NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD SUCCESS BEYOND ANTICIPATION

The resolve of your executive committee to organize in our city a permanent association for the promotion of music deserves heartfelt support. Such a union would enable you to watch, foster and train exceptional voices. It might and probably would develop from the rich material at your command singers to delight the world. It would give us a choral organization which would be not only a matter of local but of state pride as well.

Welshmen and good singers seem almost synonymous terms; nor is this an accident. It is largely due to the deep and thorough religious training of the Welsh people.

Religion and music go hand in hand. The Welsh people seem to have learned the science of living, to wit: Contentment. They seem to have gotten the righteous idea that it is not so much what a man has as what he really is which makes him happy.

It has become a proverb that rich men seldom sing; and it is beyond dispute that a man or woman with little means who can assist in rendering a great oratorio is far wealthier and far happier than the man of material wealth who cannot sing, and whose soul is out of tune with the music of the spheres.

The field from which to draw good singers could not be better. Up and down this valley and in our excellent city are thousands and thousands of intelligent, enthusiastic, conscientious Christian young men and women who are not only a strong factor in the moral forces of our community, but who love music for music's sake.

Gather them together; organize your choral union; give us a yearly musical festival, and thus place under renewed obligations people who have always loved and enjoyed and who have always appreciated the sweet Welsh singers in our midst.

Mr. Williams, the conductor, declined to make any speech, but instead called for the first competition, the contralto solo, "Hope On," for a prize of \$10, donated by E. S. McNaul. All except three of the entries had been eliminated by the preliminary contests conducted in one of the company rooms by Mr. Humphreys and Mr. Jones. These three were Miss Jessie M. Gleason, of Utica; Miss May D. Rock, of Utica, and Miss Yen Jones, of Scranton.

Miss Jones was declared the winner, but she was only one point in sixty ahead of Miss Gleason. She is a pupil of John T. Watkins, was accompanied for Miss Gleason, Mrs. D. B. Thomas accompanied the others. There were seven contestants in the preliminary.

Prof. George Howell gave the adjudication on the essay contest for a first prize of \$50 and second prize of \$10, donated by the Scranton Times. The subject was "Is Compulsory Abstinence Feasible in the United States?"

The first prize was divided between Rev. R. S. Jones, D. D., of North Scranton, and William Corless, of Rock street. The second prize was awarded to Rev. T. S. Lewis, a Congregational minister, of Wilmet, N. H. There were ten competitors.

There were only two couples to compete for the prize of \$15, donated by

cordingly the prize of \$5 was divided between them. When the names of the two winners were announced it was found both belonged to Roland Roberts, of Bellevue. He had written not only the best, but the best two of the fifty-six Englynion submitted. An Englynion is a Welsh poem of peculiarly constructed lines, of which the following is an English prototype:

"I like a man that can look me—aye full in the face, not shy,
Has a hand, always handy
To grasp, should we not agree."
(Signed)—Hen Nyddwr Cynghaneddion.

The winning Englynion read as follows:
Cryn hond trawadol, —ar ei bwne
Yn dra byt a phwysiol;
A thelwyn gyfwrw gwefrid
Yr Awen zeh yn ei gol.
(Signed)—Hen Nyddwr Cynghaneddion.

Natural a rheiddid—yw englyn.
A chonglun cyhyrdd.
Gryn ym, trwm tradd,
Gym yr awen Glyneddion.
(Signed)—Cymro Bach.

One of the most entertaining features of the eisteddfod was the singing of the

House of Representatives.

Washington, May 21, 1902.
Hon. H. M. Edwards, President, National Eisteddfod Association, Scranton, Pa.

My Dear Judge: I desire to acknowledge your very kind invitation to attend the eisteddfod and to preside over the afternoon session on Friday, the 30th instant.

I can assure you and the members of the committee that it would afford me great pleasure to be with you to enjoy the festivities of the occasion, but I very much regret, owing to certain legislation being under consideration at this time which is of importance to our country and particularly to the city of Scranton, and which requires my constant attention until its final passage, I will not be able to be present.

I want you to convey to the committee and to all concerned in the success of the eisteddfod, my sincere congratulations upon the enterprise, energy and pluck manifested in carrying to a successful termination such an undertaking, for a National eisteddfod, and on such a grand scale. I have always looked upon these gatherings as elevating and a great inspiration for good in the community, and for this reason they have always had my earnest approval.

I bespeak for the committee and all concerned, a grand and glorious success. Thanking the committee for the honor conferred, and sincerely regretting I cannot accept, I remain
Very truly yours,
William Connell.

In his stead, Rev. T. C. Edwards, D. D., of Kingston, was called to occupy the president's chair. He was given a hearty reception as he was introduced. He spoke briefly regarding the pleasure of the morning session and expressed the hope that the competitions would not disturb the peace that should reign among lovers of harmony. The unsuccessful ones, he said, should remember that "Heaven is not reached by a single bound." He hoped the eisteddfod would prove a great "boon, blessing and benediction."

Applause of the heartiest kind greeted the announcement that the Arions were present and would next be heard. Judge Edwards happily referred to the innovation of introducing German singing societies into a Welsh eisteddfod, saying it was done for the purpose of interesting all people of America in eisteddfod work, that the eisteddfod

might become Americanized. "If Wales, he said, Wales, gallant little Wales," said Judge Edwards, "contributes nothing more to America than the eisteddfod as a permanent national institution, it will have done that for which America will have cause to be extremely grateful."

Another burst of applause accompanied the Arions as they marched on the stage. They were one hundred strong and led by Arthur Chassen. They sang Munzinger's "Frühlingsergen" ("Spring Rain"), and in response to an enthusiastic encore sang the lively, difficult part song "Bruckenzale" ("A Toll-gate Theme").

Their singing was certainly a delightful revelation of the beauties of two pretty German songs. In tone, phrasing, balance and spirit the chorus was especially superior. They sang to an audience of musicians, and the audience evidenced the greatest enjoyment from their singing.

The competition for the \$15 prize, donated by Judge A. A. Vorseburg, for the best rendition of the soprano and contralto duet, "Cheerfulness," by Gumbert, had three sets of contestants, Mrs.

there were crowds in each gallery. The crowd in the singers' sections was augmented by the arrival of the celebrated Arions, of Brooklyn, who came as guests of the eisteddfod committee, and rendered selections, both afternoon and evening. Their singing was generally voted a feature of the event which added to its success as much as any other one thing.

Congressman William Connell was to have presided at the afternoon session, but could not leave Washington because of the fact that his bill appropriating \$100,000 for the enlargement of the federal building was before the house and required his personal attention. The letter announcing his inability to attend read as follows:

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Hugh T. Owen and Miss Celia Quinn, of Utica; Mrs. James Hecker, of Scranton, and Miss Elsie Powell, of Dunmore; Mrs. Frank Brundage and Miss Via Jones, of Scranton. Miss Lella Ryan, of Utica, accompanied the first duet; Mrs. D. R. Thomas, the second, and Haydn Evans, the third.

Jenkin Powell Jones gave the adjudication. The prize went to Mrs. Brundage and Miss Jones. The adjudicator paid them a fine compliment. They had two beautiful voices, he said, blending perfectly and having excellent rhythm

Morning," with Mr. Damrosch playing the accompaniment. A second number was "Off for Philadelphia in the Morning."

The afternoon session closed with the male chorus competition, the second of the chief events of the eisteddfod. One of the competitive pieces was "The Britons," of which Dan Protheroe, Mus. Bac., wrote the music and Richard J. Heamish, the words. The other piece was "Ar Hyd y Nos" ("All Thro' the Night"), as arranged by T. J. Davies,

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